

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Communications and Outreach Committee

June 24, 2015, 2:30 p.m. (phone conference)

Present: Amy Sings In the Timber, Matt Dale, Michele Robinson, Chris Manos, Joe Menden, Christie Mandiloff, Casey Stephenson, Aimee Grmojlez, Matt Dale, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Janice Doggett, Melanie Reynolds, Jennifer Brandon, Kate Kuykendall, Beth Baker, Patty Fain

Joining Forces:

Amy opened the meeting by advising the group that at the last meeting of the ATJC Committee Chairs, it was agreed that these two committees should work together to develop a plan for upcoming listening tour. That is the focus of today's meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

P & R minutes: Beth Baker moved, Amy Sings In the Timber second. Approved unanimously.

C & O minutes: Melanie moved, Lisa second. Approved unanimously.

Planning for ATJC Listening Tour:

Beth reported that Chuck Johnson agreed to help with communications and media planning for our listening tour. Lisa is going to be our point person on this and will contact Chuck.

Amy discussed that the tour will follow the same format as last time (2008, concluding with a forum in Helena just before the legislative session, attended by the Chief Justice). Secure dates and space ASAP and invite the Justices to come. Patty reported that we had as many as 100 at some places and need to make sure we get adequate space. Purpose is to listen, so need to have a good space.

Things that worked: Billings – Mansfield Center, involvement of hospital

What's missing? Add 1 in Indian Country? Add 1 in Eastern MT? Difficult because so spread out, but it was agreed that we should have a satellite location for several of the meetings, maybe at the tribal colleges, Dawson Community College, where people can participate by two-way audio-video.

First Steps:

Goal – what are we trying to achieve?

Logistics – get the date and place nailed down

Amy reported that she recently went to Philanthropy Northwest Conference, which helped shape her thinking about this series. In the last session successful forums were

when we had buy-in and participation from other groups in the community (medical, business, tribes, etc.). Get their involvement.

After further discussion, it was agreed that we should plan for the first session to be in Butte in September 2015.

Janice emphasized that we have to compile information from each meeting as we go along. Have to have a person designated to do the compilation of information and to make contact with media. Amy suggested that we rotate the responsibility for compiling. Beth broached the idea of having law students or a judicial extern help with this. Casey also indicated that the Justice for Montanans can help with the forum series.

“Staffing” – court staff (Patty Fain and Jim Taflan) will help.

It was agreed that the listening tour works into the goals and projects of all of our affected organizations, and it is hoped that all can offer some staff resources to assist the project.

Beth mentioned that there is also a judicial district redistricting study underway with a new commission created by the 2015 Legislature – we should contact the legislative staffer working on that to see what its meeting schedule will be.

Patty emphasized that messaging for the forum series is critical – ATJ is a community issue, not just a legal issue. Impacts on the entire community are substantial – the issue is one and the same with health, education, economic security, and so forth.

Patty mentioned that in planning dates, we should avoid Wednesday or Friday. Butte forum dates were identified – either September 17 or 24. Michele R. will look at community calendar and venues and try to nail down a date and location. It was agreed that we should have a moderator for each forum. Matt offered to moderate for the first discussion [note, he indicated later that he is not available on the 17th].

Beth agreed to approach Justice Shea to attend the Butte forum. We discussed ideas for sponsors – Michele will work on that, and Melanie agreed to talk to Bob Rowe.

The committees then divided up the tasks at hand:

Janice and Amy S. will work on statewide sponsors for the forum series (Beth agreed to ask the Montana Judges Association)

Forum Description - Patty and Lisa

Securing Listening Panel Members – Beth, Aimee G., Jennifer, Michele, Jon Bennion, Chris Manos (local bar leaders), Amy S.

Securing Witnesses to speak: Christine and Casey (MLSA), Jim Taflan, Amy S. (will talk to grantees about clients), Patty, Andy Huff/Jason Smith (Governor's office)

Audience: Lisa M., Kate, Joe Menden at State Bar

Logistics: Michele R., Patty, MJF (Kate, Amy).

Michele will secure the date and location 1st and get back to us all by next week.

Patty pointed out that we need to have a checklist and assignments for each person to be involved in each location. Matt emphasized that all the working groups we just created should use the checklist.

Schedule: (Who to secure date/location)

September 2015 – Butte – Michele

October 2015 – Kalispell – Patty/Amy S.

November 2015 – Great Falls – w/Tribal satellite

March 2016 – Billings – w/Tribal satellite - – Patty (Beth will contact Judge Carter)

April 2016 – Missoula – w/Tribal satellite – Amy

May 2016 – Bozeman – Jennifer B.

October 2016 – Helena – Melanie

Lisa asked whether a report was to be produced for ATJC at the end of the series? Yes.

As dates/venues are secured, notify Kate; she and Amy will get the word to all.

Amy S. noted that Montana Legal Services Association also is developing a speaker series for its upcoming anniversary – Christine agrees that this is a consideration for our schedule as well. She doesn't know the details, but will discuss with Alison.

Chris asked about the cost. Patty and Amy reported that virtually everything was donated for the last forum series, no specific budget. Some pamphlets, but did it very inexpensively – a flier for each location.

Discussion concluded and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.